

AN EXACT
NARRATIVE

Of many Surprizing

Matters of Fact

Uncontestably wrought by an Evil Spirit
or Spirits, in the House of Master *Jan*
Smagge, Farmer, in *CANVT*-Island, near
Leigh in *Essex*, upon the 10th, 13th, 14th,
15th and 16th of September last, in the
Day-time ;

In the Presence of

The Reverend Mr. *Lord*, Curate to the said
Island, *Jan Smagge*, Master of the House,
and of several Neighbours, Servants and
Strangers, who came at different times, as
Mr. *Lord*'s particular Care to discharge his
Duty, and their Curiosity led them to this
Place of Wonders.

Indith

Together with

Wiston

A Short Account of some of the Extraordi-
nary Things credibly said to have formerly disturb'd
the House, both before and since Mr. *Smagge* came in-
to it : The utmost Caution being used not to exceed
the Truth in the minutest Circumstance.

In a Letter from Malden in Essex, to a Gentleman in
LONDON.

L O N D O N,

Printed, and Sold by *John Morphew* near
Stationers-Hall. 1709.

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Exact Narrative, &c.

S I R,

THE resplendent face of Heaven, that every Year, since the August *Anna's* ascending the Throne, has so peculiarly smil'd upon our Harvests, and blest our Isle with a return of warm and fruitful Seasons in general ; having been this Summer, after an unparallel'd Winter of Ice and Snow, as it were skreen'd from us, or its cheering Beauties at best dwindled into a Chequer of Rain and Shine : The Husbandman sadly Complains, and Friend D. and I, have little to tell of our Rural Diversions. But waving that Subject altogether till our return to Town ; and knowing from our last Discourse, I shall not disoblige by the exchange ; I purpose at present to Entertain you with a quite different scene of Actions, *Viz.* A Relation of certain injurious Pranks play'd by some restless unhappy Goblin, or Spirits, or else by their grand Chieftain the Prince of the Power of the Air, the best Attested, and most Amazing of the kind our Age hath produced. And it concerns not the matter in hand that every Passage be conformable to what we account Method ; or by a due Dependence or Chain of things one upon another, point out some plain End or Meaning, as is Natural and Obvious in our prosecuting Business :

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But

But rather what you are mainly to regard, is, That your Authority be clear and sufficient ; that the Matters of Fact said to be perform'd by these Infernal Guests are really done by them, and not Counterfeit or Imposture ; for as to Ends and Meanings, their Exploits are generally Riddles : Sometimes they seem to want Power to Reveal somewhat --- at another time they seem to have Power, and nothing to Reveal ---- Again, sometimes they appear stinted as to Time, and so can't utter themselves-- Otherwhile they

Recollect the Case of the Spirit's appearing to Mr. K's Daughters at M.E.

shall stay a long time, and shew no will of having any thing to utter. So that they are no more to be understood in what they would have, than we can tell what it is that comes, what we see and hear, which we are wholly unable to do ; tho' that we do see and hear, and that somewhat comes, we have all the conviction our Senses are capable of Administring to us. Not but that I am persuaded there have been Instances, and am duly aware of the ill Manners it would be to insinuate the contrary ; where Spirits or Apparitions have Spoken and Acted as if on Principles of the Correctest Thought and Reason ; and Consonant thereto, have disclosed to those unto whom they have appear'd absolute Secrets, and Truths unknown before.

Neither am I obliged to meddle with that knotty Argument, what Restraints departed Souls are necessarily subject to, or Liberties they may possibly be allow'd, by the Oeconomy of the Spiritual World : Whether in the nature of the thing they can any more return hither, than we can make a visit into their mysterious Regions ; or how Consistent 'tis with Ortho-

dox

dox Religion, they shou'd have Power so to do, and by putting on humane Garb and Figure, or any other way disturb our World, having once taken their leave of Matter: But leaving the solution of these Difficulties to the Intelligent, 'tis enough to my purpose that we have demonstration that a Spirit or departed Soul does some way, and may by Innumerable Ways and Means Adapt to their Immaterial Capacities, altogether beyond our Ken and Conceptions, Effect such things as are commonly, and in a more eminent manner in the following Relation, Attributed to them. Besides, it's probable that the Devil, who by his implacable Enmity to Man is ever Compassing the Earth to work his ruin, when he cannot succeed in his main Enterprizes his temptings of the Righteous and Upright to forego their Integrity, then takes up with smaller Games, and being unable to do us the mischief he wou'd, affrights and hurts us all he can, and to that end Acts a more immediate Part himself, in many of these scaring Appearances and Freaks, than we are aware of. Methinks the following Account in many of its Circumstances, bespeaks Satan to be at this sort of Exercise, and that tho' God was pleas'd to permit him, or his Agents, in such an unpresidented manner, unless in the Case of *Job*, to Damage the House and have Power over the Life of the Chicken, yet it was with such Limitations as that it cou'd not hurt any of the People present: As for Instance, the Tile and Stone came into the House hot, but so miraculously slow, as plainly argued his Power to be restrain'd: And then for the Glass, when Mr. *Lord* sat under it Writing, and at other times, with a great deal of Company, stood right before it, and a seeming violent dash to break the Windows; the Glass, as is natural upon such

such a blow given, we find did not fly out, but drop leisurely and perpendicularly down, not unlike Icicles falling from the Eaves of a House, on a Thaw : Altho' it ought to be here noted, that notwithstanding these gracious Interpositions of our heavenly Preserver, yet what was permitted was very Terrible to every Spectator : And possibly, amongst the rest, to some who would not have believed a word of the Story, had they not been there themselves. 'Tis therefore very disingenuous, as well as foolish for any to ridicule and laugh at Things of this Nature, because all are not Witnesses to them : 'Tis time enough--

Tho' Dr. Brown gives them a course sort of Reason, why they are not to expect it. v. Religio Medici, p.69,70. 8th Edition.

such haply sometime may ; and it's more manly to shew their Parts and Courage then in demeaning themselves better than others, than to Gibe now. In the interim, let them constantly bear in Mind, the Case of the poor Maid, what dismal Convulsions she for a long time struggled under ; and how she may still be a Sufferer, by Impressions abiding on her Mind, even as long as she lives. But to proceed to the Narrative ; every Circumstance of which, I might tell you, hath been as curiously collected and examin'd, by Mr. D. and my self, as by you or any others they could have been ; and that from several Hands, at separate Times, all agreeing in the Thing : But I rather chuse to say only, *We are satisfy'd*, referring you, and our *Middlesex-Friends*, to the Merits of the Account ; engaging, that all the reputable Persons therein named, will respectively be ever ready to attest the Truth of it, even to the Conviction (provided Demonstration can gain upon him) of the most fanciful incredulous Person : Here being particulariz'd without any reserve, (I mean

mean as to the Principal part hereof) *Time, Place, Names*, and all he can ask ; which commonly, in Relations of this nature are partly conceal'd, because such Families would otherwise be obnoxious to great Inconveniencies, by reason of the Crowds that would be continually resorting to them ; but in being Particular at present, I am satisfied I do Mr. Smagge and his Neighbours no

*'Twas this Reason
you know, caus'd
Mr. N. in E. S. to
take such effectual
care to Conceal the
wonderful Apparition
of a deceased
Person in his House.*

Injury : *Canvy-Island* being a very retired Place, and most that from the adjacent Parts might be inclined to go, having been there already ; or, are by other means amply satisfied.

First then for your more clear and familiar Understanding of the whole, I shall briefly cast an Eye back, to the supposed beginning of these Disturbances, and then go on as orderly as my Materials will admit.

THIS now Dwelling-House of *Jan Smagge*, standing in *Canvy-Island*, in the County of *Effix*, is said to have been Built, and for a great while Inhabited by a certain Person deceased ; who, with his Wife, were lookt upon in their Life-time, jointly to have scrap'd together in the said House, by Fraudulent and Oppressive means, a considerable lump of Pelf. Having for a long time carried on this groveling Employ, the Wife, being in a declining Condition, went to *London* to be advis'd for her Health ; but Sicknefs increasing, and she conceiving she should die, desir'd the Man, with whom she lodg'd, that happen'd to be the same Person that now lives in the said disturb'd House, to acquaint her Husband, She would be Buried in a Place call'd *Benfleet*, near *Canvy-Island*, where
her

her deceas'd Children lay: To which he answer'd, 'Twas all one where the Body was dispos'd, so the Soul was Happy. This Discourse pass'd about six a Clock in the Evening, in the Summer time. Immediately on which, *Jan Smagge* affirms, He receiv'd a hard Stroke, or Stroking on the Arm, from the Wrist, upwards to his Shoulder; and then felt the Chair, that he sat in, to shake in an extraordinary manner: He lookt under the Chair, and about him, to see what caus'd the Motion, but discern'd nothing. His Wife and the sick Person were in the Room, but both distant from him. One might excusably Conceit, from what has since occur'd, That this Stroke and shaking, were an Earnest, or Prefage his Guest design'd him more of the same sort of greetings after her departure. In two or three Days the said Person died, and her Husband was sent for and acquainted with her Mind; but he, probably to save Charges, buried her in Town. The Funeral being over, he return'd to his Habitation in *Canoy Island*, and in few Years made his Exit also, which the old Inhabitants compute to be upwards of 30 Years since. Presently upon his death, unaccountable Noises were frequently heard in the House, to the great trouble of those that succeeded him in it. Such as forcibly opening and shutting the Doors at Noon-day, no one being near them, or the least Wind or breeze of Air stirring to do it: Nay, whilst the People have had the Doors in their Hands, they have been violently snatch'd from them, and shut to and fro, with exceeding quickness, for many times together. *Jan Smagge* himself once saw the Parlour-Door thus shut to and fro in his Predecessor's time; and asking about it, was answered by the Woman of the House, That it was common with them. A

great

great Table, or Form in the Hall, hath been removed out of its Place, and no Body to meddle with it. Sometimes a Noise hath been, as tho' Horses came and rubb'd against the out-side of the House; and this in a particular manner once occur'd, when some Strangers were there Carousing themselves with Smoak and Liquids, who instantly all ran out of the Doors, but saw nothing; however, they broke up upon it. At last the Noises of this kind were such, That some Neighbours, yet living, affirm, particularly *John Tony*, Farmer, a Man of Honest Character, and that would not report a Lie, They have heard a Din and a Clattering, as tho' a thousand Horses, with Chains were hurrying about the Grounds at once; the Servants, and People, that then dwelt in the House, hearing the same. These Molestations continually increasing, the Inhabitants generally say, Means were certainly used, as the vulgar Term is, to lay the Spirit by a Charm, or like Device: Some saying they knew the Man by whom it was done; remember the Time, and have seen the Book with which he did it: And farther tell, That most horrible Noises and Distractions fill'd the House whilst the Work was about. The Spirit visibly appearing, and was so Fierce --- and Boistrous, out of all Rule, that he had like to have carried off the Conjurer; but who at length, with much ado, is said to have fix'd it for 21 Years. But Mark, I insert not this Passage, as attested with that Power and Evidence, as will be anon produced in other Matters: However, Whether the Spirit, when so reported, was laid, or not laid (which Congruous to what is before hinted of their Appearing, may, for what we know, and all that's probable to the contrary thro' the Wiles of Satan, by such indirect Measures, be seemingly done. He may have

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Power, and his Ends in it too, by these kind of Ceremonies to amuse us, and draw deluded Souls into farther Temptation, that poor Man can't Fathom or Accountfor) Or whether the House be Invested with more than one, Noises have still from time to time been since heard ; though all say not with that Terror and Loudness as before : To wit, since that a Woman hath been heard to come up Stairs, and at the top to vanish. The Latch of a Door to be lifted up. A great Light seen in the Hall, in the Night by the Master, when none have been up, and neither Candle nor Fire in the House. A Servant-Man of Probity, and a conscientious Principle, who would not report a Lie, and not subject to Fancy, or a pusillanimous Fear, and hath lived a great many Years in the House, does aver, He hath divers times heard, seemingly, the chinking of Money at his Bed-side ; and one time, a Woman, as he supposed, by the rustling of her Petticoats, to walk about his Bed the whole Night, till towards Day-break, and then in appearance to go away, clapping the Door with a great force after her. The Appearance of the aforesaid Deceased Person, as having on a Grey-Coat, such as he used to wear in his Life-time, hath been twice seen standing at an old Barn in the Fields, that formerly was his : One of the times the Man who saw him, went into the Barn, thinking it had really been somebody, but saw nothing, and the Barn empty. Good-wife Reynolds, a Neighbour, about four in the Morning, in the Summer time, saw a Man walk along at the side of the House, to one of the fore Doors, and then seem'd to her to go in, the Door all the while continuing close shut. A Face in Day time was seen, by a Person who sat in the Kitchen, to reach out itself, and look in at the Back-door. The

aforesaid

aforesaid Servant-man, in *May* or *June* last, on a *Sunday* Morning, heard a great Whistle, in the manner of a Call, about the House, but no one to be seen. About 3 or 4 Days after that, towards Evening, being yet Light, he again, with the Maid and another Person there, heard, as under the Hall-Window, where at that Instant he, and one of them were standing on the inside, the same kind of Whistle as before; but as he said, more Loud, Long and Shrill; on which they immediately ran out, and search'd strictly, but saw nothing. After this he heard the Latch of the Back-door twice distinctly drawn up, and fall down loud and hard. A Neighbour passing by, in the Evening, saw a Woman standing by a Gate that goes to the Barn. About two Months since, near Dusk, but light enough to distinguish Objects, *Mary Moss*, the Maid (a young Person in her 17th Year) going out of the Back-door into the Yard, saw a Man leaning upon an old Cart-Wheel standing there; at which she return'd in, telling what she had seen. The Boy, a Youth, in his 18th Year, at the same Interim, being on the other side of the House, saw a Man leaning on the Garden-Pales; at which, being a fearless kind of Spark, he cry'd out, *Who have we here?* At his speaking which Words, the Apparition rose up, and walked away towards the corner of the House, where he lost sight of it. The Boy then came in, and went up Stairs to tell the Man what he had seen; whilst he was doing it, the Maid said she saw a Face peep in at the Hall-Window: The Man was then called down, and immediately with the Master and Youth, went all round the House, but could see nothing. A Fortnight after this, the Maid going out again in the Evening, (scarcely yet Dusk) of the Back-door, unto the Rain-Cistern, to rinse her Milk-Pails,

saw a Woman leaning upon the Gutter that carries the Water into the Cistern; as soon as the Maid had fixed her Eyes upon it, she discern'd it to move towards her; at which, greatly affrighted, she threw down the Pails, and ran trembling in a-Doors, the Appearance of the Woman coming after her, and brushing hard against her just as she entered the House: All within were greatly surpriz'd at this, and Mr. *Smagge* that Moment ran out again, search'd as before, but saw nothing. At the beginning of this Month, an Acquaintance of Mr. *Smagge*, that lives at *Benfleet*, came in to rest himself till the Tide was gone out; and about 2 in the Afternoon, he heard a great Whistling, in the manner aforesaid, for three or four times; on which supposing somebody to Call, he went out; but whilst he was gone, the Maid hearing the Whistling too, thinking it had been some one to speak with her Master, came down Stairs; but he returning, said he could see no-body: On which, one present answered, *This is-- (i. e. the aforesaid deceased Person) who used to be a mighty Whistler to his Sheep.* The Man reply'd, Whoever 'tis, he hath made a Fool of me, and hath a good strong Breath of his own.

After this, nothing occur'd till *Saturday* the 10th Instant; the first of the five Days, almost successively, wherein the Notable things following, were Transacted, and which Principally gave occasion to my writing you this Letter.

About 4 this After-noon, as the Maid was scrubbing Cheeses at the North-side of the Kitchen with her Face towards the fore Door, she observ'd the 2 Cats that were sitting on the Cell of the Door, on a sudden to run as if scared, unto the Barn, a good Stone's cast from the House: Instantly upon which she saw the

the shadow as a of a Man coming to the Door, which
 she thought might be some one coming from the
 Harvest-field, but immediately, a Chicken almost full
 grown, was by an invisible Hand thrown with great
 force into the Kitchen within a yard and half of
 where she stood. The Maid then scared too, cry'd
 out to one that was in a farther Room call'd the Par-
 lour, the Hall and a short Passage lying betwixt that
 and the Kitchen, Oh! Come hither, here is some
 body killing the Chicken. The person presently
 came; and seeing the Wing to stir, stooped to take it
 up, hoping to recover it, but perceiving it just dead,
 they both presently ran out, and searched all round
 the House and Barn, &c. but cou'd see no body. And
 here it is necessary, as well in relation to what fol-
 lows, as to what is already said, to tell you, that this
 House by its standing alone and on plain and open
 Ground, without Lane or Hedge about it, is so si-
 tuate, and the prospect on all sides free, that 'tis im-
 possible any Cloathed with material Bodies, cou'd be
 able to conceal themselves in staying; or considering
 the continual quick pursuits were made after a distur-
 bance given, to carry themselves off, without disco-
 very. The Harvest People too, this time were at
 work just before the House the same side the Chicken
 was thrown in of, and 'tis more than probable wou'd
 have spy'd who had done it, had they been visible:
 But the strangest Part of this Feat is yet to tell thee:
 At Evening when Mr. *Smagge* and others of the Fa-
 mily were come home, the Chicken in the presence
 of them all was curiously examin'd, as to the way it
 might come by its Death: And the Mouth being first
 open'd there were found cram'd into the entrance of
 the Throat 76 Barly-Corns; then feeling the Neck
 as it were broke, the Feathers being first pluckt, they
 slit

slit the Skin of the Neck up to see that, and instead of broken, found it nicely cut Flesh and Bone together as with a keen Knife, without the least roughness, but as absolutely smooth as a Radish can be cut, and the two ends when put together to join as completely as two Parts of a Radish can do, which as the Head was on, and not the least scratch or impression on the out side of the Neck, and the whole Body entire, exceeds without farther Proof, all the moral Causes and Operations in the World.

Tuesday, Sept. 13th. In the After-noon an odd jarring was twice distinctly heard at one of the fore Doors, call'd the Passage-Door, by a Person that sat nigh in the Parlour adjoining to the Passage, and who the last time, which was considerably louder than the other, rose up, and out of Curiosity, tho' there was no Wind stirring, went to make a Judgment whether the like noise cou'd be made by the Wind, and trying found Art as well as Srength requisite to do it. About 4 or 5 of the Clock, an extraordinary Bounce was given to the same Door, at which the Maid came hastily out of the Kitchen, believing some Stranger there: but the Person sitting in the Parlour, told her, She had look'd through the Window, immediately as the Bounce came, and that no body was there; which on her opening the Door, finding to be so, she returned into the Kitchen. The other Person remaining in the Parlour, in a little time heard a second Bounce, as of a Stone against the Boards, under the Window where she sat; at which, calling the Maid, they went out, but saw nothing. The Person that had all this time been in the Parlour alone, beginning now to apprehend these to be some of the old usual Disturbances, stept into the Parlour again, with a design to put by what she was
about,

about, and come away ; but was hardly there, before she heard the Glass break in the Hall ; which Room lyes between the Parlour and the Kitchen ; and the Maid skreeking, she then went back, and they found three Panes broken in the middle Window : then, not having dispatch'd in the Parlour, she returned again thither, but presently she heard more Glass break in the Hall, and the Maid to scream as before ; they then found two Panes more broken. At this, the aforesaid Person went into the Harveft Field to acquaint the Master and Work-folks what had past at home : at her return she met the Maid, and a Neighbour's Child left with her, sitting half way by a Gate ; on which she said to the Maid, What do you here ? Here ! replies she, there's no staying at Home : for as soon as you was gone, being afraid, I went out, and sat with the Child upon the Threshold of the Door ; and immediately all the Windows in the Hall were broken with a terrible Clatter ; *(the Threshold where they sat being just on the side, and in sight of the Window ;)* and on my crying out, What's that ? The Child here answered, *Why ? 'tis the Devil breaking the Windows :* This Child was but three Years and half old, which reminds me of the Proverb, *Children and Fools, &c.* When they came back to the House, the broken Glass was increased to 19 Panes and a Piece, and the Casement, that before was shut, open. When Mr. Smagge came home, pretty much surpriz'd at what he saw, 'twas advised to send for the Minister, whose House was a short half Mile from this ; he presently came, and telling the broken Panes, made this Observation, That the Lead, except that of two or three Panes, was all bowed outward ; which, supposing the Blow, (was it done by a Blow) given on the same side, seems impossible.

Wednesday,

Wednesday, Sept. 14. About 7 or 8 a Clock in the Morning, a great Stone was thrown in at the fore Door, and going through a part of a short Passage the said Door opens into, and that is betwixt the Hall and Parlour, came three or four Yards into the Hall. The Door being open when the Stone came in, was shut upon it. Presently after this, Mr. Lord which is the Name of the Minister, came in, and one there shewed him the Stone: and then walking sometime in the Hall together, questionless not wanting a Subject to discourse upon, a great knock was given upon the Table close by them, and immediately following it, a noise of breaking of Glass in the Parlour; Mr. Lord, and that other Person, instantly ran into the Parlour, and found three Panes broke, and a large piece of Pantile sticking in the Window; after they had view'd it with Wonder on the inside, they went to see it without. Mr. Lord observing the place where the Tile stuck to be above the reach of any ordinary Man; and the Tile to hang in such a strange Geometrick Manner, betwixt the broken Lead and Glass, that one can scarcely think a less Artist than he that cut the Chicken's Neck cou'd so place it. This was the first time Mr. Lord heard any thing except the knock just before on the Hall Table, and who on his entring the Parlour adjured it, in the Name of God, to tell what it was, but nothing was Answer'd. Mr. Lord's business after this call'd him away till Evening, and the Maid and one more are left again in the House: It was not long before they heard a great rattling on the Pantiles of the Beer-Room, the Maid heard it twice, and the other Person three times; which caused one of them to look therein, and then the Maid went out, the other Person abiding within and 'twas heard by both to clatter a-top of the Tiles

Tiles that were directly over the Head of the one; and in full Sight of the other; the Roof of the Milk-house adjoyning to the Hall, and that of the little Parlour to the other Parlour, running down Shed-wise on the North-side from the House; but nothing was seen. After this, Master *Smagge* came in; and, as he was walking with another in the Hall, heard Glass break, he immediately ran and found it was the Kitchen Window. Soon after he went out again, and the Maid and one other remain'd in the House: As they were standing in the Kitchen, looking towards the back Door, the Door open, and the Coast clear, they saw a piece of Tile come in of the said Door, about two Foot from the Ground, but very leasurely; and yet so strait, as though it had moved on a Line; and then, in a languid manner, after its creeping thus five or six Yards in her sight, touching against the Gown of one of them, (who but the Arch-Juggler could so throw it?) fell down near her Feet; the other, who was the Maid, ran to catch it up; but let it fall, crying, It burnt her; and a little Blister, in touching it, was raised on her Fore-finger. The other Person then put the Tile into her Apron, and carry'd it over a long Field to shew it the Master and Work-folks, who all felt it yet warm. The Windows of the Beer-Room were broke again after this; and it now drawing towards Noon, all was quiet till five or six of the Clock in the Evening. The Maid was then milking just before the House, some others being with her, and the Window of the Parlour that faced, and was within three or four Yards of them, was on the sudden in an extraordinary manner broken: No body was then in the House, and none but the Invisibles could do it

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from without, and not be seen. After this, as the Good man was standing talking with Goodwife *Grinaway*, --- *Reynolds*, and others, part without, and part within the Kitchen fore-Door, two or three violent knocks were given upon the Wall, betwixt, and close by them. Night coming on, Mr. *Lord* return'd to set up with Mr. *Smagge*; and after the reading some Chapters and Psalms, they heard a plain gingling of Glass; on which Mr. *Lord* left off Reading, and went to Prayers, and nothing more was heard that Night.

Thursday, Sept. 15. Mr. *Lord*, considering what had hitherto passed, thought fit to attend all this Day in the House; and to that purpose, having slept Home, and fetch'd his Notes, went and sat in the Hall to Study: In some time he, and another that was in the Hall, heard breaking of Glass in the Parlour; on which they both quickly ran in, Mr. *Lord* adjuring it as before; but nothing was seen, or any answer made. The Window was this time broke in a different Place, and the large Tile that Mr. *Lord* left sticking in it the Day before, probably to shew such as came, and that did this Execution, and that e'en now they saw there, was removed from where it was, and artificially set under the Table. He then went and sat down again to his Study, but in a little while, the Windows of the Hall, against his back as he sat, were, with a more forcible Dash and Clatter than ever, broken; tho' the other Person, that stood right against the Window, that very interim, saw nothing strike against it; and the Glass not to spatter out, but fall down on the Ledge. At this Mr. *Lord* immediately rose up, and adjured it a third time, saying, *In the Name of God, what is it? If it be the Pleasure of God that we may know what it is?*

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But no Answer was made. After this, Mrs. *Weakling* came, Daughter-in-law, as I understand, to the Good man of the House; she had not been long there, before more Glass was broken in the Parlour, which whilst she, Mr. *Lord*, and others, went to see, a loud new Noise, as of somewhat falling, was heard in the Hall, whither they immediately returning, found a whole Dutch Brick, somewhat smaller than ours, to lye under the Table : Whilst they were looking on it, a ratling was first heard, and then more Glais to break in the Beer-Room, Mr. *Lord*, Mrs. *Weakling*, and others, being in the Hall, and the Maid and her Mother being then in the Kitchen, so that the Beer-Room was, as it were, on a side of them all. Mr. *Lord* now retired home for a little time ; and at his return, found the Report spread abroad of these Matters, drew several People to the House ; as, besides Mrs. *Weakling* he left there, Goodman *Lane*, Strangers and others. Whilst all were attending, some in the Hall, and some in the Kitchen, a knocking came in the Hall, and upon it more breaking of Glass heard, which they found to be in the Milk-House. The breaking of this Window was particular, in that a Joint of a large Wooden Gutter, that conveys the Rain into the Cistern, was also removed from its Place, and the broken Glass and Lead bowed in, as though it had been forcibly thrust with two large Balls.

Next succeeding this, Two of the Company, standing in the Kitchen, the others in the Hall and elsewhere, they saw a Stone with some Dirt and Straws upon it, the bigness of a Turkey-Egg, come as from the Crevice of the fore Door, which as the Door was close shut, one cou'd not thrust a small Hazel-Nut thro'. I say, came as from, not in of the Crevice, because one of

the Persons, who was not above half a Yard from it, and looking that way, discern'd it not till 'twas an inch within side (so that how it came there we have no Account,) but closely observing its Progress afterwards clearly saw it to take a kind of half Circle, but so slow, as tho' its Motion had proceeded from a regular Piece of Clock-work ; and then gently, as if let down by a Spring, descend to the Ground, about a Foot and half from the said Crevice. This Stone was also hot, and being presently taken up, by the Person next to it, in her Apron, she call'd Mr. *Lord* who, with the other Company, came, and all feeling it, found it too hot to grasp in the Hand. Mr. *Lord* then said, consider this Stone : this is enough to convince any one ; for besides the amazing Circumstance how it came in, and its being hot, this Straw and Dirt upon it, cou'd not be in the form you see it, had it been heated by a material Fire. I cou'd not get all the particulars that pass'd this Day ; but what with ratlings upon the Pantiles, throwing of Stones, breaking the Glass, and Knockings, Mr. *Lord* told the Disturbances to be Thirteen several times in all.

Friday, Sept. 16. Mr. *Lord* lay here again last Night, and all was Silent ; and this Morning some Occasions calling him Home, he returned not till the Afternoon. As he was coming to the House he met Mrs. *Skilder*, Goodwife *Cause*, *Grinaway*, &c. and one of them having a Child in her Arms, Mr. *Lord* said to her, If she came to see Disturbances of this Nature, she ought not to bring a Child with her to be Frighted ; at which they went back with the Child, and soon followed him. Whilst he was shewing to them, (Goodwife *Snusher*, &c. in all 7 or 8 Persons,) in what manner the Demon or Demons had Play'd these Pranks, and troubled the Place, they

heard

heard more breaking of Glafs, Mr. *Lord*, as through all this melancholly Scene, when Present, he always did, led the way to see where it was, and in the little Parlour adjoyning to the other Parlour, which Window till now had escap'd untouch'd, he saw one Pane broken; on which he and all the Company ran to the outside, and they found lying on the end of the Gutter just by the Window, a Pantile or large piece of one, with which by a red Streak on the Lead that seemed to be markt therewith, they supposed the Window to be broken. Whilst all were looking here and no body within, the Window of the other Parlour that in like manner faced them as they stood, was with a furious loud dash broken as from the inside, in the sight of them all; the pieces of Glafs not flying out, but gradually falling down on the Ledge, as usual. One there cry'd she saw somewhat white strike against it, which by the rest though the breaking was seen and blow heard by all, was not observed. Mr. *Lord* that moment rush'd into the Room, and one of the Company calling to him, *Sir, will you go alone?* He answer'd, if you have Faith follow me; she replying, *I hope I have Faith in God through Christ, it can't hurt me,* hastned, e'er the Words were pronounced, in after him; Which was of the passage Door, that by its standing and nearness so favour'd their speed, that had a Bird broken the Window, it cou'dn't, by the help of its Wings have escaped without their seeing it. On their coming into the Parlour, they found a piece of Allum, the bigness of a common sized Orange, that had formerly been laid, by Mr. *Smagge*, in the Hall, to be put into a clean scoured Chamber Pot which stood under the Window: This they guess'd the Glafs was broken with, and to be that *White* one of the Company saw: Who now with the rest, pretty well recover'd

cover'd from their surprize, follow'd Mr. *Lord* and the other Person into the Parlour; not omitting throughly to view the piece of Allum likewise. Presently after this more Glass was broke in the Beer Room. Mr. *Lord* being then obliged to go and bury a Corps, the other Company disperſed, and the Houſe for ſome time was left alone.

New Spectators quickly came *viz.* Mr. *Bell*, Mr. *Weakling*, and his Daughter, Mrs. *Cooper*, Mrs. *James* and her Son, &c. Theſe took their Seats in the Hall, and having ſtaid a little while, Knocks, the uſual warning, before breaking of Glaſs, were heard: Preſently upon it a moſt amazing blow was given againſt the Hall-Window, That greatly ſcared all there. Mr. *Weakling* ſitting directly over againſt it, ſaid he ſaw ſomewhat, but cou'd not deſcribe it: Mrs. *James's* Son ſaid he plainly diſcern'd a white Stick; the reſt did not apprehend any thing it was done with, only heard the blow, and ſaw the Glaſs broken: All in the Hall inſtantly ran out, ſome of one Door, and the reſt of the other, which Doors, as if they were contriv'd on purpoſe, open ſo opportunely on both ſides the ſaid Window, (and the ſituation of the Houſe in general as is before deſcribed) there was no place of Concealment near enough for any Mortal to have had recourſe to, in ten times the ſpace the People were getting out: So that indubitably ſomewhat ſwifter in its flight than Fleſh and Blood, muſt be the ſole Author and Actor in all. Well! Every one now again are out of the Houſe, and whiſt 3 or 4 of them ſtood gazing juſt againſt the Hall-Windows, at the ſhatter'd Glaſs, and aſtoniſhing form thereof, which all round the Houſe is now much the ſame, they plainly ſaw the Glaſs broken, as before, from within

within, and a piece of Stone or Brick to come thro' and fall down on the outside.

All the Company now retiring, the following Accident closed the whole.

The Maid and Boy having Milkt, going into the House, Goodman *Reynolds* came, and sitting a little while talking with the Maid, she cry'd, a Stone fell sharp on her Toe, on which Goodman *Reynolds* rose up, and went away : Presently after that, the Maid crossing the Kitchen by the Door, that through the Hall looks into the Parlour, she heard the Parlour-Door skreek, which causing her to look that way, she saw it stand half open, and then a Man, quite opening it, to come out, and put it half to, as she saw it at first : He came a little towards the Hall, and then (which I shall give you in her own Words)

“ Look'd with his Eyes so sharp, --- and turn'd his
 “ Head so quick about, --- and look'd towards the
 “ Windows ; --- his Countenance Pale and Ghast-
 “ ful ; seeming to have on a short Grey Coat, a
 “ whitish Hat, with a white Stick in his Hand,
 “ which he held by the middle, Truncheon-like :

All this while, as she gives the Account, she was rather taken up with earnest gazing on, than aware of Fear : But then, he moving forwards towards the Milk-House, this seiz'd her with such Terror, that she ran skreeking out of the House in an Agony ; the Boy, scar'd at seeing her, running out affrighted too. She made her way directly to Mr. *Lord's*, resolving never to enter the House more : After a very ill Night there, she was taken the next Morning, by a Reflection on her Fright, and repeating some of the Circumstances of it, with such a miserable Fit, as none thought she would ever have come out of alive : At first vomiting Blood, and then foaming
 at

at Mouth and Nose, to the great Amazement of the many that came to see her. Mr. Lord, " Who " throughout this fore Visitation, discharg'd his Sacred Function in a ready and constant Attendance, " in advising Mr. Smagge to a Fast, and Prayers in the " Family --- and suitably applying himself to every " one, as the Occasion requir'd; and for which the " utmost Respect and Thanks are due to him from " all, whilst she lay in this deplorable Condition, prayed by her; and as, at times, she seem'd sensible, exhorting her, in the properest manner, to pray, to put her Trust in God, &c. With God's Blessing, in two or three Hours the Fit went off; and by my Spy, sent thither the 25th Instant, I hear she is indifferent well, and that the House, unto that Day, had not afterwards been disturb'd.

The Disturbances the last Day were 12 several times.

There is one odd Passage I had almost forgot, but which you may depend upon for Truth, viz. That it was generally reported, among the People of the Island, for some Months before these last Molestations began, that the 21 Years were this Summer expired, for which the Spirit was said to be laid.

I am, S I R, &c.

St. Michael and All
Angels, 1709.

POSTSCRIPT.

HAVING thus gone through the Particulars, give me leave, by way of Postscript, to add this short, not unsuitable Reflection : If, as some Learned suppose, the Souls of sensual and wicked Men, by reason of their wholly abandoning themselves to worldly Lusts, whilst living, and the gross Inclinations, quite unsuited to spiritual Enjoyments, they carry out of the World with them, do, by a kind of natural tendency after Death, often Haunt, or Hover, about their Graves, Places of Abode, or Stages on which their Impious Crimes were acted ; as tho' (to speak in Dr. Scott's Words) " They had an outrageous Desire of being embodied again, that so " they might be capable of repeating their old sensual Pleasures, and acting over the Brutish Scene " anew ; Methinks 'tis reasonable to believe, that the unjust crafty Miser, and they that grind the Faces of the Poor, are Leaders and Chieftains in this Range of Beings : The manifest Aims that those groveling mistaken Wretches, all their Lives shew, to take their ill-gotten Mammon along with them, if they could, makes it no Wonder they, of all others, come back again upon the same Errand, if they can. These Sins, the foregoing Relation intimates to you, those unhappy ones gave up themselves to, who are the supposed Cause of the various Disturbances, that make the Subject thereof ; and if so, how long, poor forlorn Souls ! they may yet wander about the House, and Places where they were once such eminent Drudges for nought, none can tell. I the rather mention this, because of the mighty In-

crease, there is of late, of these sort of Sinners: Formerly one Arch-designing Knave, Extortioner, and Oppressor of the Poor, that builds up his Fortune a more savage way, than by Rapine and Plunder, was accounted an intolerable Pest to the whole Country where he lived; but now every Village and Corner (*I wish the Poyson were spread no higher*) hath one of these Vermin planted in it; who wait, like Birds of Prey, to strike their Tallons into the first innocent or needy Person that presents: The Poor, without any Study, they easily make their Prey, and crush to Death: And others, who are not Poor, but by reason of Non-age, Widowhood, some Exigence, or the like, become exposed to their Snares; they hedge the Concerns of such into their Hands, and quickly make them so. But let these (worse than literally Man-eaters) consider, that unless by a due Restitution, and all that the solemn Work of Repentance calls for at their Hands, they timely cleanse themselves, the Cries of such Widows, Orphans, and distressed Persons, will surely pursue them to Judgment, and bring upon them the consuming Wrath of the righteous Majesty on High, that will Prey upon them for ever.

Wherefore, for the use of such, supposing they read not the Bible, I have here collected the following Texts, whereby they may take a View, both of their Sin, and their Doom.

St. Matth. 7. 12. *Whatsoever ye would that Men should do to you, do ye even so to them; for this is the Law and the Prophets.*

1 Thess. 4. 6. *That no Man go beyond or defraud his Brother in any Matter: because that the Lord is the Avenger of all such.*

Lev. 19. 11. Ye shall not deal falsely ; neither lye one to another.

Psal. 55. 23. Deceitful Men shall not live out half their days.

Job 5. 13. He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

1 Cor. 3. 19. The wisdom of this World is foolishness with God.

Job 27. 8. For what is the hope of the Hypocrite, tho' he hath gain'd, when God taketh away his Soul ?

Ezek. 22. 13, 14. Behold therefore I have smitten mine hand at thy dishonest gain. Can thine Heart endure, or can thine hands be strong in the days that I shall deal with thee ?

St. Luke 12. 20, &c. But God said unto him, thou Fool, this night, &c.

Eph. 5. 5. A Covetous Man, who is an Idolater, hath no Inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ, and of God.

1 Cor. 5. 11. With an Extortioner, we are bidden, no not to eat.

St. Luke 3. 13. Exact no more, than that which is appointed you.

Ezek. 45. 9, 10. Take away your Exactions, saith the Lord God, ye shall have just Balances, &c.

Deut. 24. 12. And if the Man be poor thou shalt not sleep with his Pledge.

Deut. 24. 13. In any Case thou shalt deliver him his Pledge again, when the Sun goeth down, that he may sleep in his own Raiment and bless thee.

Prov. 30. 14. There is a Generation, whose Teeth are as Swords, and their jaw-teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the Earth, and the needy from among Men.

Exod. 22. 22, 23. Ye shall not afflict any Widow or Fatherless Child : If thou afflict them in any wise and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their cry.

Zech. 7. 10. And oppress not the Widow, nor the Fatherless, the Stranger, nor the Poor.

Mal.

Mal. 3. 5. I will be a swift witness against ---- those that oppress the Hireling in his wages ---- and that turn aside the stranger from his right.

Prov. 14. 31. He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his maker, but he that honoureth him, bath mercy on the poor.

Deut. 24. 14. Thou shalt not oppress an hired Servant that is poor and needy.

St. James 5. 4. Behold the hire of the Labourers, which have reap'd down your Fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, (Or what is the same in our modern Oppressors; beating them below the Customary Rates) Crierb; and the Cries of them which have reap'd, have entred into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

Prov. 22. 22, 23. Rob not the Poor, because he is Poor; neither oppress the Afflicted in the Gate; for Lord will plead their Cause, and spoil the Soul of those that spoiled them.

Psal. 72. 4. He shall break in pieces the Oppressor.

2 Pet. 2. 9. He reserves the Unjust unto the day of Judgement to be punished.

Job. 27. 13, 14. This is the portion of a wicked Man with God, and the Heritage of Oppressors, which they shall receive from the Almighty: If his Children be multiplied, it is for the Sword; and his Offspring shall not be satisfied with bread.

Amos. 8. 4, 6, 7. Hear this, O ye that swallow up the Needy, even to make the Poor of the Land to fail: That buy the Poor for Silver, and the Needy for a pair of Shoes; yea, and sell the refuse of the Wheat. The Lord hath sworn by the Excellency of Jacob, surely I will never forget any of their Works.

I am, once more,

S I R, &c.

F I N I S.